



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 September 2007

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- *CNN* reports that a mock cyber attack orchestrated in a DOE Idaho lab showed that the nation is vulnerable to coordinated attacks that could destroy the entire electrical infrastructure of large geographic areas for months. (See item [1](#))
- *The Associated Press* reports that Chicago's video surveillance equipment will soon be upgraded with smart software manufactured by IBM. The new surveillance system would be capable of "alerting emergency officials if the same car or truck circles the Sears Tower three times or if nobody picks up a backpack in Grant Park for, say, 30 seconds," among other things. (See item [31](#))

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump***

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

## **Energy Sector**

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: **ELEVATED**,  
Cyber: **ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 27, CNN* – (National) **Mouse click could plunge city into darkness, experts say.** Following a mock cyber attack, experts proved that the nation is vulnerable to coordinated attacks that could destroy the entire electrical infrastructure of large geographic areas for months. The experiment, called Aurora, took place at the Department of Energy's Idaho lab in March, and involved mock, controlled hacking into a replica of a power plant's control system. Although most of the details were kept secret from the public, the report had a strong impact on White House and DHS officials, who have since been collaborating with the electric

industry to develop strategies aimed at preventing such an attack. Government officials have confirmed that “changes are being made to both computer software and physical hardware to protect power generating equipment and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said it is conducting inspections to ensure all nuclear plants have made the fix.” The country is vulnerable to such attacks because much of the equipment used by the industry is manufactured abroad where foreigners have access to it, including the software programs and passwords, according to industry officials. The costs of a cyber attack affecting one-third of the country for three months could reach an estimated \$700 billion, said experts. Computer specialists are relieved that the government is finally taking their warnings seriously, but complain that the funds necessary to prevent this type of catastrophe are still not available. The electric utility industry did not release any comments on the report.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/09/27/power.at.risk/>

2. *September 26, South Florida Business Journal* – (National) **FPL Group to put \$2.4B toward solar energy.** FPL Group announced Wednesday that it will make investments “to increase U.S. solar thermal energy output and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.” The company will invest \$1.5 billion over the next seven years in solar thermal generating facilities located in Florida and California, \$500 million in “a smart network that will provide customers with enhanced energy management capabilities.” It also intends to invest the revenue from planned consumer education products and programs, an estimated \$400 million, in developing renewable energy.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/070926/1526110.html?.v=2>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Chemical Industry**

3. *September 27, KUSA Denver*– (Colorado) **Crews working on chlorine leak.** HazMat crews responded to the scene of a chlorine leak in northern Colorado on Thursday afternoon. The Poudre Fire Authority said a 100 pound chlorine cylinder was leaking at County Roads 58 and 11 at the ELCO Water District storage facility. The extent of the leak was not immediately known. Two people were exposed to the chemical but are said to be fine. The area has been deemed safe.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=78073>

4. *September 26, Ann Arbor News* – (Michigan) **University warehouse evacuated after chemical spill.** Officials evacuated a small warehouse on the Eastern Michigan University (EMU) campus Wednesday afternoon after a minor chemical spill, a university spokesman said. The spill occurred as a barrel was delivered to the loading dock at EMU’s central receiving facility. The barrel had a puncture or leak, and some material came out. The chemical, which is not toxic but is caustic, is used in boilers in EMU’s heating plant. Firefighters and officers from the EMU Department of Public Safety responded to the spill and evacuated the mail services building during the clean-up. There were no injuries.

Source: [http://blog.mlive.com/annarbornews/2007/09/emu\\_warehouse\\_evacuated\\_after.html](http://blog.mlive.com/annarbornews/2007/09/emu_warehouse_evacuated_after.html)

5. *September 26, WTVC Chattanooga* – (Tennessee) **Air Pollution Control investigating chemical incident.** The Hamilton County-Chattanooga Air Pollution Control Bureau says they

are investigating an incident involving a chemical from last night. Workers were applying a chemical known as MMA (Methyl Methacrylate), normally used when installing a common kind of industrial flooring found in pharmacies, supermarkets, and similar businesses, to the floor of the Publix grocery store being built near Hurricane Creek in East Brainerd. Several people were overcome by the odor. Chattanooga fire fighters were called to the scene. Five 55-gallon drums of Methyl Methacrylate Monomer were found on the loading dock and fire investigators were told more than 50 other barrels were inside other parts of the building. Fire investigators say some fire fighters had to step out of the building because of the odor.

Source:

[http://www.newschannel9.com/articles/chemical\\_963220\\_article.html/mma\\_investigating.html](http://www.newschannel9.com/articles/chemical_963220_article.html/mma_investigating.html)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste**

6. *September 26, Reuters* – (International) **U.S. study urges firmer guard against atom terrorism.** A report by Harvard University's Managing the Atom Project, commissioned by the U.S.-based Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), cited significant progress safeguarding and removing vulnerable nuclear stockpiles globally, but that dangerous gaps persisted in Russia, Pakistan and elsewhere. The report stated that some sites with bomb-grade uranium have no more security than a night watchman and chain-link fence. Serving military officers in Pakistan collaborated with al Qaeda in two plots to assassinate President Pervez Musharraf, raising doubts about the reliability of officers charged with guarding the country's nuclear stockpile, said the report. In Russia last year, a senior general who was deputy head of law and order in Russia's closed nuclear cities was fired on suspicion of organizing smuggling from those areas. On expert marveled that "remarkably, it appears that neither the U.S. government nor the IAEA has a comprehensive, prioritized list assessing which facilities pose the most serious risks of nuclear theft." Among recommendations, the report called for a full-time White House official to draw up a strategic plan against the problem, multilateral exercises to pinpoint threats and briefings on them at political summit meetings, and the removal of nuclear material from all vulnerable sites within four years.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN2628740720070927?sp=true>

7. *September 26, Associated Press* – (California) **Fresno County gives nuclear plant testing OK.** State law bans the building of new nuclear power plants in California, but a private company in Fresno has won the right to test for a new one. In a 4-2 vote Tuesday night, the Fresno City Council passed a request from a group of Fresno businessmen to study whether a new nuclear plant could be cooled with wastewater from the city's treatment plant. That decision gives Fresno Nuclear Energy Group LLC access to the plant to conduct the tests, which are expected to take four years and cost as much as \$4 million in private funds to complete. The state has two active nuclear power plants: Diablo Canyon, near San Luis Obispo, and San Onofre, between San Diego and Los Angeles. But California law prohibits the construction of any others until the federal government approves a process for the permanent disposal of spent fuel.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/09/26/state/n102414D96.DTL&type=politics>

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

8. *September 27, DefenseNews.com* – (National) **C-5 upgrade effort imperiled by cost confusion.** Senior U.S. Air Force officials have asked the Pentagon’s Cost Analysis Improvement Group (CAIG) to probe the “wide variation of difference” between the estimated cost growth figures for a key C-5 engine upgrade initiative calculated by the service’s program office and Lockheed Martin. The service’s effort to fit some of its C-5 airlifters appears to have breached the Nunn-McCurdy law, which holds military programs to congressionally-set thresholds for swollen cost growth. Air Force program managers and the lead contractor for the effort, Lockheed, say cost growth “looks like 15 to 20 percent.” However, since the program office and Lockheed have presented Air Force brass with numbers that are so far apart, “we have started to prepare the battlefield with [the Office of the Secretary of Defense] and Congress that a Nunn-McCurdy is coming,” said the Secretary of the Air Force. Once the exact figure is known, senior Pentagon acquisition officials and Air Force leaders could opt to terminate the program. That could clear the way for the service to buy more Boeing-made C-17 Globemasters. The defense and aerospace industries are closely watching the C-5 engine upgrade effort because if it keeps enough of the C-5s flying, the service likely will not place any more orders for new C-17 Globemasters. If that happens, Boeing has said it will be forced to close its C-17 production line. If the C-5 engine upgrade effort is judged too expensive, those models could be replaced with new C-17s, service officials said.  
Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=3065381&C=america>
9. *September 24, Defense News* – (National) **GAO: cost overruns likely for U.S. Navy’s Ford-Class CVNs.** The Government Accountability Office released a report stating that the projected costs for the U.S. Navy’s next-generation aircraft carrier, the Ford class, will be exceeded. The agency recommended the Pentagon revise the \$11 billion project and “establish independent cost surveillance capability and monthly cost performance reports.” The ship is scheduled to replace the Navy’s first nuclear flattop, the Enterprise, starting in 2015.  
Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=3060168&C=landwar>

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *September 26, WCBS New York* – (National) **Consumer alert: magazine subscription scams.** CBS Channel 2 in New York released an investigative report on magazine subscription scams. According to the report, a former employee of Worldwide confirmed to investigators that the company “preys on the elderly, non-English speaking customers and college students with fast talk and exorbitant cancellation fees, dictated by a manager.” The unscrupulous company uses clients’ personal information such as the credit card and social security information to fill in subscriptions, which costumers had not ordered, noted a Better Business Bureau (BBB) employee, who acknowledged her company received hundreds of complaints about Worldwide. The same BBB official urged people to never give their personal information over the phone and to sign up with the Do Not Call Registry to avoid unsolicited calls.

Source: [http://wcbstv.com/topstories/local\\_story\\_269144019.html](http://wcbstv.com/topstories/local_story_269144019.html)

11. *September 26, WHIO Ohio* – (National) **New email scam targets churches.** A recent report unveiled another email scam involving a message coming from a Filipino widow who offers to make a \$7.3 million donation to churches for “orphanages, widows, propagating the word of God and to endeavor that the house of God is maintained.” The sender then asks the recipients for their bank information. Dayton police urged people not to respond to these types of email and to report them to the appropriate authorities.

Source: <http://www.whiotv.com/news/14213279/detail.html?rss=day&psp=news>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

12. *September 27, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **FBI investigating train track 'sabotage'.** FBI investigators suspect that the removal of a series of railroad spikes from train tracks on Chicago's South Side might be an act of sabotage. However, nobody claimed responsibility or called in a threat, said the FBI spokesman. The alteration of rail tracks poses a great danger and could lead to a train derailment, according to the Federal Railroad Administration spokesman. The trains running on the affected tracks carry approximately 40,000 commuters daily.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070927/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/railroad\\_sabotage;\\_ylt=AueVXjqRWglsO7UpKYbTrqOs0NUE](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070927/ap_on_re_us/railroad_sabotage;_ylt=AueVXjqRWglsO7UpKYbTrqOs0NUE)

13. *September 26, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Training explosives cause airport scare.** Officials from Indianapolis International Airport closed a concourse on Wednesday after a Transportation Security Administration officer mistakenly left an inert explosive used in a training course at a checkpoint. Security officials evacuated 500 people from the concourse for one hour after discovering what they considered a suspicious package. The airport spokeswoman reported that “no flights were canceled, but the evacuation delayed some US Airways and United Airlines flights.”

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070926/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/airport\\_closure\\_4](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070926/ap_on_re_us/airport_closure_4)

14. *September 26, Associated Press* – (National) **Engineers seek 'Health Index' for spans.** State highway officials around the country criticized as exaggerated the vocabulary used by the federal government to describe the state of bridges. Some engineers are bothered specifically by the “structurally deficient” and “fracture critical” phrases, which alarm the public with disaster connotations. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials will hold a meeting on Thursday to discuss the controversial terminology. The frequently misleading phrase “structurally deficient” describes the state of a bridge after “regular inspections uncover significant deterioration such as advanced cracking in concrete or steel components. The rating often leads to weight restrictions and increased monitoring and maintenance.” The term “fracture critical” applies to “to bridges without multiple backup features, meaning that if one critical component failed, the entire structure could give way.” However, there are some engineers and state representatives who consider that using less ‘drastic’ expressions will not benefit the public and will not generate the necessary funding from government.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070926/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/branding\\_bridges;\\_ylt=AjPDCqINCRMXhkMG5gUcdpNG2ocA](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070926/ap_on_re_us/branding_bridges;_ylt=AjPDCqINCRMXhkMG5gUcdpNG2ocA)

15. *September 26, Associated Press* – (National) **Border watch groups ready for month-long deployment.** The Minuteman Civil Defense Corps and a spin-off group of disaffected Minuteman members announced month-long deployments along the Arizona, California and Texas borders with Mexico, and along the Washington state border with Canada. The new plan will be implemented starting Friday. The Patriots' Border Alliance also announced a 30-day border watch operation starting Saturday. Both groups will try to prevent illegal immigrants and smugglers from entering the country. The Minuteman operation was prompted by the increased danger border patrol agents are exposed while operating with limited resources, according to Minuteman founder and president. The group is known for its border watches that it conducts twice each year. In response to the two announcements, Border Patrol spokesman said that the Minuteman usually operate on private property and do not interfere with border agents.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/nation/5168036.html>

16. *September 26, USA Today* – (International) **U.S., Mexican states seek border solutions.** U.S. and Mexican border governors will meet this week to discuss strategies aimed at improving border security. Both the Mexican President and the U.S. Homeland Security Secretary announced their intentions to attend the meeting. A report stated that border state representatives, although satisfied by the labor provided by illegal immigrants, are concerned about the resources they utilize in schools and hospitals. Arizona's governor is planning to push for a resolution concerning the sales of pseudoephedrine, a cold remedy and a key ingredient in methamphetamine production. "As Mexico cracks down on pseudoephedrine imports, smugglers are turning to U.S. suppliers to feed their clandestine drug labs," said the official. Another major topic on the representatives' agenda is a proposed multibillion-dollar aid package being negotiated between Mexico and the United States which will be used to crack down on drug smuggling. The officials will also try to find solutions to ameliorate the waiting periods at border crossing points, and will be briefed on the current situation of border fences.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2007-09-26-border\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2007-09-26-border_N.htm)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

17. *September 26, Associated Press* – (National) **Postal service cites loss estimate.** The U.S. Postal Service announced that it expects a loss of around \$600 million next year. The fiscal 2008 financial plan "anticipates income of \$78.2 billion and expenses of \$78.8 billion," in spite of increased income and reduced spending. The USPS remains concerned about the possibility of further losses of revenue due to economic uncertainty and reduced volume.

Source: [http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5g-HWSqmfvxcnr5\\_qUPs5O\\_DXuSbA](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5g-HWSqmfvxcnr5_qUPs5O_DXuSbA)

18. *September 27, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Big rigs at Port of Oakland linked to health woes.** On Wednesday, the Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports released a report stating



that the Port of Oakland should require trucking companies to use cleaner vehicles. Emissions from the 2,000 trucks that arrive at the port daily are linked to increased rates of asthma and other problems. In order to combat this, the report proposes that “the 100 or more trucking companies working at the port enter into agreements with the port in which they would hire drivers as employees and secure less-polluting trucks.” Although this suggestion is under consideration by the Port of Oakland, it is opposed by the trucking industry. Port officials are looking for a way to improve the air quality around the port, while not having an adverse effect on the local economy.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/09/27/BAVBSENGJ.DTL>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

19. *September 27, Wisconsin Ag Connection* – (Wisconsin) **Lack of storage triggers distress loans for crops.** Due to the anticipated large volume crops being harvested this fall, securing adequate acceptable storage may be a problem for many farmers. As a result, the Wisconsin Farm Service Agency’s State Committee has approved distress loans for Wisconsin farmers on 2007 corn and soybean crops. Distress loans have a three-month term and are only authorized when there is a shortage of storage at harvest time on the farm or in local warehouses. Distress loans mature on demand, but no later than 90 calendar days after the date the loan is disbursed. These loans must be repaid at principal, plus interest. “Farmers have the option to move the commodity into eligible storage and re-pledge for a regular nine-month marketing assistance loan,” said the State Farm Service Agency.  
Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-state.php?Id=1156&yr=2007>
20. *September 26, Associated Press* – (National) **Bill approved by House would regulate chemical used in microwave popcorn.** Rather than wait on studies of possible dangers posed by a chemical used in microwave popcorn, the House wants to regulate food workers’ exposure to it. Though many popcorn makers have already found a flavoring substitute for the chemical in question, diacetyl, lawmakers said Wednesday that a federal standard should be enforced immediately to ensure that workers in the industry and others are not placed in danger. The disease has been the subject of lawsuits by hundreds of workers at food factories exposed to chemicals used for flavoring. The House passed the legislation 260-154 on Wednesday. The Senate has not yet considered it.  
Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/news/nation/story/292440.html>
21. *September 26, Kentucky.gov* – (Kentucky, National) **DPH, FDA warn public not to consume unpasteurized cream.** The Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) is urging consumers to follow a recent U.S. Food and Drug Administration warning not to consume unpasteurized cream labeled as “Organic Pastures Grade A Raw Cream.” The cream, packaged in one-pint plastic bottles coded for Sept. 14-21, is marketed by Organic Pastures in Fresno, Calif., and may be contaminated with bacterium known as listeria monocytogenes. The organism can cause a serious and sometimes fatal disease called listeriosis, which is especially lethal in young children, elderly individuals and immune-compromised citizens. The cream product was sold in retail stores throughout California and was also available worldwide via phone orders.

Source: <http://www.kentucky.gov/Newsroom/chfs/Raw+cream+2007.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Water Sector**

22. *September 27, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia; National) **EPA moves to make drinking water safer.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued new national water regulations on Wednesday that it said will help reduce lead in drinking water, keep utilities honest in testing for lead and warn the public when water poses a health risk. The revised drinking water rules require that water utilities notify customers as soon as they find high lead levels in water. The rules also strengthen and clarify how utilities should test for lead in order to reduce the chances of utilities reporting artificially rosy test results that mask lead problems. The rules also require that utilities get permission from regulators before changing water treatment. Many of the revisions to the regulations on lead were prompted or informed by a lead crisis in the District's water supply that was first revealed early in 2004, more than two years after the utility noticed lead levels rising. The public learned in news reports in January 2004 that its drinking water contained dangerously high, record-setting levels of lead. It was a fact the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) and EPA knew from extensive testing of hundreds of District homes in the previous year, but had not announced it to the public. The news spurred a public outcry, congressional hearings and six separate investigations about why it happened, and why local and federal authorities had not acted more quickly to fix it. Ultimately, EPA concluded that a switch in water treatment it had approved for the District's water, from chlorine to chloramines, had made the water more corrosive and caused massive lead leaching from faucets and lead pipes in the water system. A subsequent EPA audit showed WASA had violated many testing rules by not testing in homes where it would most likely detect lead problems if they existed, and discarding test results that found high lead levels. A Washington Post investigation in late 2004 found that dozens of utilities across the country were using identical testing methods that broke EPA rules in ways that masked higher lead readings and concealed potential health risks in their water.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/26/AR2007092602441.html>

23. *September 27, KUSA* – (Kentucky) **Vandals contaminate water supply.** State police in Letcher County, Kentucky are searching for suspects who contaminated the Sandlick water tank on Sunday night. To remove the contamination from the system, which was already under water restrictions, county officials say thousands of gallons had to be wasted. It took quite a bit of work to vandalize the water supply. County officials say someone cut through three locks, the last of which opened access to the water tank ladder. Then, sand stones were carried up the ladder and dumped in the community's main water source. The Letcher County Judge Executive said that since it is public water, he is trying to get homeland security involved. "That's water that our people need and use and that's a lot of water to have to dump out just on account of vandalism," he stated.

Source: <http://www.wkyt.com/news/headlines/10011616.html>

24. *September 27, The Billings Gazetteer* – (Wyoming) **Benzene found in well near blowout site.** Test results disclosed Tuesday have shown one private drinking water well in Clark has been



contaminated as a result of an August 2006 natural gas well blowout. Windsor Energy notified state officials and Clark residents Tuesday that a well used by residents living adjacent to the blowout site had tested positive for seven times the federal drinking water standards for benzene. The residents will be supplied with a separate source of water and a filtration system that will remove benzene from the well water. A cleanup manager for the Department of Environmental Quality said Windsor is “in the process of evaluating technologies which can be utilized to slow the migration of the groundwater plume,” adding that the DEQ will continue to monitor the situation and require Windsor to take immediate steps to ensure the protection of Line Creek residents. Some Line Creek residents have criticized what they have said is an unreasonably slow pace of the cleanup effort, saying the state and Windsor were not moving quickly enough.

Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2007/09/26/news/wyoming/20-benzene.txt>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

25. *September 27, Reuters* – (National) **Many drugs slip through regulatory ‘black hole.’** Every year, doctors write approximately 65 million prescriptions for drugs not yet approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. These drugs, some of which the FDA admits could be dangerous, slip through a “black hole” in the drug approval system, according to one Massachusetts congressman. When a pharmaceutical company submits a new drug for approval, the FDA gives it a 10-digit number called a National Drug Code. The FDA provides the number before the drug is approved in order to track it through the approval process. However, pharmacies use this same number as an order number that works whether or not the drug is FDA-approved, and many doctors and pharmacists seem unaware of this wrinkle in the approval process. Though the FDA has known about this problem for more than four decades, it has only recently started cracking down on the practice. FDA officials said they are issuing more warnings and even pulling some drugs off the market.

Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/HEALTH/conditions/09/26/unapproved.drugs/?iref=mpstoryview>

26. *September 26, KPHO* – (Arizona; National) **Arizona boy dies of rare infection.** A 14-year-old Lake Havasu boy has become the sixth victim to die nationwide this year of Naegleria, a microscopic organism that attacks the body through the nasal cavity and quickly makes its way to the brain. According to the Centers for Disease Control, Naegleria infected 23 people from 1995 to 2004. This year health officials said they have noticed a spike in cases, with six Naegleria-related cases so far -- all of them fatal. Such attacks are extremely rare, though some health officials have put their communities on high alert telling people to stay away from warm, standing water. Though infections tend to be found in southern states, Naegleria has been found almost everywhere in lakes, hot springs, even some swimming pools. Still, the CDC knows of only several hundred cases worldwide since its discovery in Australia in the 1960s. The amoeba typically lives in lake bottoms, grazing off algae and bacteria in the sediment. Once infected, most people have little chance of survival. Some drugs have been effective stopping the amoeba in lab experiments, but people who have been attacked rarely survive. In addition to the Arizona case, health officials reported two cases in Texas and three more in central Florida this year. In response, central Florida authorities started an amoeba

telephone hot line advising people to avoid warm, standing water, or any areas with obvious algae blooms. Texas health officials also have issued news releases about the dangers of amoeba attacks and to be cautious around water.

Source: <http://www.kpho.com/news/14214579/detail.html>

27. *September 26, Associated Press* – (National) **Man sues over stolen bone placed in neck.** A man, who found out the bone implanted in his neck to relieve back pain was stolen from a corpse, is suing a medical technology company based in Minnesota and several tissue processing businesses based in Florida, New Jersey, and Tennessee for fraud and negligence. New York authorities believe the owner of now-defunct Biomedical Tissue Services, made deals with funeral directors to remove bones, tendons and heart valves from corpses without notifying their families or screening for disease. He is accused of doctoring death certificates and forging consent forms, then replacing stolen bones with PVC pipe and sewing the incision so it would not be noticed at the funerals. The body parts were then shipped to processing firms nationwide, sterilized and implanted in patients from early 2004 to September 2005. It is unclear how many patients received stolen tissue or bone. Medtronic has voluntarily recalled about 16,000 bones nationwide, and tests on 12,000 to 13,000 people show no infectious disease that is traceable to the recalled tissue, said a company spokesman

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hEmfWSyEeIMxrmFzFAcGrjS4n0Q>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Government Facilities Sector**

28. *September 26, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Student critical after Tenn. dorm attack.** An 18-year-old student was attacked and found unconscious in a dorm room at Middle Tennessee State University. Another 18-year-old first year student has been charged with attempted first-degree murder, after his explanation of why the victim was found beaten and unconscious in his room did not match the evidence.

Source: [http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iTagJQCsbJXy91G\\_7tZrQY1L3yqw](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iTagJQCsbJXy91G_7tZrQY1L3yqw)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Emergency Services Sector**

29. *September 27, EMSResponder.com* – (National) **OnStar data used to study auto crashes.** General Motors Corp. and the University of Michigan Medical School are working on a new study that will try to guide emergency workers and doctors who respond to car accidents -- and develop safer vehicles along the way. Researchers are using crash and injury data from GM's OnStar service to learn more about the links between certain types of crashes and injuries. The in-vehicle system alerts emergency rescue officials when an air bag deploys or the vehicle is involved in a crash. The study could help emergency room doctors know what to expect before the victim of a car accident arrives at the hospital. It also may help rescue workers determine when they need heavy equipment to extricate passengers or should send injured motorists to trauma centers. For example, a doctor armed with the data might be able to anticipate injuries that a frail, elderly woman would sustain in a side-impact crash. Or injuries a young passenger might experience in a rollover. It also could provide insight into the crashes that don't lead to

injuries.

Source: <http://www.emsresponder.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=6241>

30. *September 26, ABC News* – (National) **Obesity threatens emergency services: report.** An increase in the obese population poses a threat to emergency services, according to a report release by *ABC News*. More funds are required to accommodate large patients, who need wide beds, wheel chairs, patient lifting devices and extra staff to help lift and transport them. Bariatric ambulances, according to the report, underwent changes in certain communities where trucks were equipped with hoists and special stretchers to transport patients weighing up to 1,100 pounds. However, most worrisome is the difficulty encountered by doctors trying to diagnose and treat obese patients. Overweight people do not fit in many CT and MRIs scanners and doctors are forced to request the use of animal scanners located at local zoos, according to the report. “Evaluations are further hindered by the patient’s immobility and poor venous access for IV fluids and for obtaining blood samples,” said one source. Moreover, establishing the right dosage for overweight patients is difficult because of the lack of research studies on proper dosing for large patients. The report also highlighted the effects of the crisis on EMS workers and hospital personnel, who develop back pain and injuries while trying to move obese patients. “I’m not certain this is creating a crisis yet, but it is something we need to plan for and address with newer equipment,” said a doctor at the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic.

Source: <http://www.abcnews.go.com/Health/Story?id=3652388&page=1>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Information Technology**

31. *September 27, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Chicago video surveillance gets smarter.** On Thursday, the city of Chicago and IBM Corp. announced the initial phase of what officials say could be the most advanced video security network in any U.S. city. Chicago already has thousands of security cameras in use by businesses and police—including some equipped with devices that recognize the sound of a gunshot, turn the cameras toward the source and place a 911 call. However, the new system would let cameras analyze images in real time 24 hours a day. For example, the system could be programmed to alert the city’s emergency center whenever a camera spots a vehicle matching the description of one being sought by authorities. The system could be programmed to recognize license plates. It could alert emergency officials if the same car or truck circles the Sears Tower three times or if nobody picks up a backpack in Grant Park for, say, 30 seconds. It is unclear when the system will be fully operational. Existing cameras could be equipped with the new IBM software, but additional cameras will likely be added as well.

Source: [http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8RTSNE84&show\\_article=1&catnum=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8RTSNE84&show_article=1&catnum=1)

32. *September 26, Computerworld* – (National) **Gmail’s zero-day flaw allows attackers to steal messages.** Accounts on Google Inc.’s Gmail can be easily hacked, allowing any past and future e-mail messages to be forwarded to the attacker’s own in-box -- a vulnerability researcher said Tuesday. Dubbed a “cross-site request forgery” (CSRF), the Gmail bug was disclosed Tuesday by a U.K.-based Web vulnerability penetration tester. He said attackers can use Gmail’s filtering feature to exploit the bug. An attack, he said, would start with a victim

visiting a malicious Web site while also still logged into his Gmail account. The malicious site would then perform what Petkov called a “multipart/form-data POST” -- an HTML command that can be used to upload files -- to one of the Gmail application programming interfaces, then inject a rogue filter into the user’s filter list.” This filter will automatically transfer all e-mails matching the rule. Future e-mails will be forwarded as well. The attack will remain present for as long as the victim has the filter within their filter list, even if the initial vulnerability, which was the cause of the injection, is fixed by Google,” he said.

Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,137725/article.html#>

33. *September 26, Computerworld* – (National) **Cyber criminals turn to smaller botnets.** Online criminals setting up botnets, networks of computers they have hijacked using malicious software, are downsizing those networks in an attempt to counter security software firms. Virus writers typically try to build the largest possible botnet to make it more powerful and therefore more valuable to rent out to criminals. However, researchers have reported seeing these large groups broken down into smaller units. “Most botnets are controlled by internet relay chat,” said an F-Secure researcher. “The problem for the owners is that if the central IRC server goes down they lose the whole botnet. These people do not want to put all their eggs in one basket, and are therefore running smaller botnets.” He explained that online gangs are increasingly trying to take over botnets run by other people, and that running numerous smaller botnets makes this less of a problem.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2199688/botnets-getting-smaller>

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## Communications Sector

34. *September 26, The Houston Chronicle* – (National) **Man pleads guilty to hacking Cox’s telecom systems.** A former Cox Communications Inc. employee has pleaded guilty in federal court to hacking into the company’s telecommunications system and causing phone service failures around the country. The shutdown caused a loss of computer and telecommunication services — including 911 access — for Cox customers in Dallas, Las Vegas, New Orleans and Baton Rouge, La. For nearly two hours, Cox customers were unable to make emergency calls before Cox technicians could restore service, according to information provided in court.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/5168626.html>

35. *September 26, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **FAA says Memphis outage caused by AT&T.** AT&T Inc. manages the telephone line that went down at a Memphis air traffic control center causing nationwide airline delays Tuesday, the head of the Federal Aviation Administration told lawmakers. The communications failure, which limited the center’s ability to talk to flights passing through its airspace and to other air traffic control facilities for about three

hours, shut down all airline traffic within 250 miles of Memphis, causing dozens of delays, diversions and cancellations at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and in Nashville. A National Air Traffic Controllers union spokesman on Tuesday called the outage a major safety problem and said controllers had to use their personal cell phones to talk to other air traffic control centers.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5izmTH3YXhrMBHYxx90qNkQWNOWlA>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

36. *September 26, Computerworld* – (Mississippi) **Officials to discuss stadium security.** Officials at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Jackson, Mississippi will meet Wednesday to discuss security at the stadium after more than \$100,000 was stolen by two gunmen on Sunday night after the Battle of the Bands. The Stadium Commission chairman will meet with stadium staff to talk about money-handling procedures.

Source: <http://www.wapt.com/news/14209722/detail.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

37. *September 26, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **3 arrested in theft of trees from Olympic National Forest.** Three men pled not guilty earlier this week to illegally harvesting cedar trees from the Olympic National Forest. Over 100 blocks of wood were discovered at the home of one of the men by U.S. Forest Service agents. It was determined that the wood originated from “Olympic National Forest's Cook Creek area, where large-scale tree theft had been occurring.”

Source: [http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2003904302\\_webtimber26m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2003904302_webtimber26m.html)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Dams Sector**

38. *September 27, Associated Press* – (Alabama; Georgia) **Drought causes further cuts in water releases from dams.** On Wednesday, Alabama Power and the U.S. Corps of Engineers announced they will reduce the water releases from dams in Alabama and Georgia, which contribute to the water levels at Lake Martin, Logan Martin Lake and the company's other storage reservoirs on the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers. The announcement was made during a teleconference among Corps and local officials held to discuss the consequences of a drought that has affected the area since 2006. Alabama Power Co. stated that it will reduce the amount of water it releases at dams on the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers in half by November 5. Similarly, corps officials announced they will cut water releases “by at least 200 cubic feet per second from Allatoona Lake north of Atlanta.” Power company officials warned that perpetual dry weather might lead to low spring levels, but if it rains the water cuts from dams will be smaller.

Source: [http://www.accessnorthga.com/news/ap\\_newfullstory.asp?ID=98153](http://www.accessnorthga.com/news/ap_newfullstory.asp?ID=98153)

39. *September 27, The Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Putting a hard top to it.** Enel North

America, the hydroelectric power company that owns the Great Stone Dam on the Merrimack River, decided to modernize the dam's flashboard system. With the time flashboards "are prone to washing away during floods, letting water rush over the top of the dam for weeks, even months, until the river drops low enough for repairs to be made." The new \$3.5 million make-over includes crest gates – pneumatically controlled series of retractable metal walls – which will decrease the rush of water over the dam that causes delays in fish spawning. The installation of the new system inconvenienced some boaters who were not able to go out because of the low water levels. The work is expected to last several more months, but will depend on the weather conditions.

Source: [http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/09/27/putting\\_a\\_hard\\_top\\_to\\_it/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/09/27/putting_a_hard_top_to_it/)

40. *September 26, The Gazette* – (Iowa) **C.R. flood plain expands.** The city of Cedar Rapids, Iowa commissioned a new flood plain map that enlarges the area of the flood plain. The report found that the levee on the west bank is too low and, in the event of a 100-year flood, "89 more commercial properties, 164 more residential properties, eight industrial ones and 25 government/non-profit ones on the river's west side" will be in the flood plain and may need flood insurance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is set to review the calculations before issuing their updated Flood Insurance Map next year. The estimated costs of fixing the levees are "\$11 million on the west side of the river and \$1 million on the east side." The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decided in 2004 that the Cedar River levee warranted further study and the city has sought state and federal funding to help pay for the \$1.2 million study.

Source:

<http://www.gazetteonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070926/NEWS/70925041/1006/NEWS>

[\[Return to top\]](#)



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### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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